

*Left by Deputation at their
interview on 10th May.*

BOROUGH OF SALTASH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

Ordinary Report

1923.

R. THORNTON MEADOWS, D.S.O., M.D., M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SALTASH :
DINGID & Co., PRINTERS.
1924.



Ordinary Report for the Year 1923,
Of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Saltash.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

This is the most favourable report on the health of the Borough that I have yet had the pleasure of laying before you.

Population Census	1911	...	4103	
„	„	1921	...	3631
„	Estimated 1923, Civilians only			3598
Area in Acres	...	...	...	190
Number of Inhabited Houses	...			743
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers				550
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£14229 15s.
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...			£61

BIRTHS.

			Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	...	...	30	31	
Illegitimate	...	...	1	3	
			—	—	
			31	34	Total 65
			—	—	
Birth Rate	...	...	...	18.30	
"	"	of 55 Smaller Towns	...	19.8	
"	"	National	...	19.7	

We have slightly increased our Birth Rate over that of last year, whilst the National and also the Smaller Towns Birth Rate has decreased.

Illegitimacy is practically the same as last year, one out of every 16 Births being illegitimate.

DEATHS.

	1923	1922
Total of Deaths in the District ...	33	54
Civilians only and Corrected for transfer	37	61
Death Rate per 1000 ...	...	10.5
England and Wales ...	...	11.6
Of 157 Smaller Towns ...	...	10.6

	M.	F.	Under 1	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 up
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cancer ...	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
Diabetes ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Heart Disease ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Bronchitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other defined Diseases ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8
	16	21	—	—	—	—	2	3	12	19

Infantile Deaths ...	0
Zymotic Deaths ...	0
Deaths consequent on Child Birth	0

This is a most gratifying Death return as with the exception of the two deaths from Tubercle. there have been no deaths from preventable or Infectious Disease; the diseases over which the Sanitary Authority strives to gain control. More than half our deaths were of persons over 65.

	1923	1922
Natural Increase	28	1

RATES.

	Birth Rate per 1,000	Annual Death Rate per 1,000									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Of Total Death Percentage.		
		All Cases	Enteric.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea under 2.	Death under 1.	Certified.	Inquest.	Uncertified.
England & Wales	19.7	11.6	0.01	0	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	92.0	6.9	1.1
157 Smaller Towns	19.8	10.6	0.01		0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.21	0.38	6.4	69	92.6	6.1	1.3
Saltash ...	18.30	10.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15.0	0	100.0	0	0

This return needs no comment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

This year there have been 12 cases reported as compared with 23 last year, and 39 the year before. The case of Enteric, I believe, was due to eating cockles gathered in the Tamar. We know that shell fish of the Hamoaze are polluted.

CASES REPORTED.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Enteric	...	...	1
			—
			12
			—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Four cases are reported as compared with six last year. No cases were sent to Sanatoria.

	M.	F.	15—25	25—45	45—65	Total	Deaths.
Pulmonary ...	1	3	1	2	1	4	2

SUMMARY FOR REFERENCE.

1. Professional Nursing—Two Nurses belonging to District Nursing Association, one being a Midwife and of the greatest and necessary value.
2. Voluntary small Hospital for necessitous cases and accidents.
3. Hospitals provided by Authority.—None.
4. Clinics for Venereal Disease. None; Plymouth being close by.
5. Clinics for Tuberculosis. None; except for County, some distance away.
No other Institution.
6. Ambulance, hand only; but St. John's Ambulance Motor from Plymouth available.
7. There is no Isolation Hospital or Disinfector.

Laboratory specimens have been examined for Diphtheria carriers. Anti-toxin was supplied to Diphtheria cases.

VACCINATION.

The Public Vaccination reports 127 Vaccinations as compared with 58 last year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Legal actions were instituted in the cases of one Bakehouse and one Slaughterhouse. Also in cases of Overcrowding and two cases of Closing Orders. All actions were successful.

No seizures of foods were made.

The Veterinary Inspector's reports were favourable.

All Infected houses were disinfected but no clothes removed for this purpose.

The Bakehouse referred to in my last report as being insanitary, after legal action has been structurally altered, and all the requirements of the Sanitary Authority have been carried out.

In the case of the Slaughter House, this did not come before the Magistrates, as the Owner consented to and did carry out the necessary alterations.

Dairies and Milk Shops are satisfactory. No application for supply of any graded Milk has been received. No cases of disease attributable to infected milk have been met with.

No less than fifty houses had been found without proper flush tanks to the closets. These fifty have now been supplied.

More Sanitary Dust Bins, instead of any old thing, would be to the advantage of the Borough.

The Water Supply to the upper part of the Town has been worse than it was before. Many houses get no water, downstairs even, to 11 and 11-30 a.m. In some cases, even where a cistern is provided, the results have been considerable damage to property, and it is never known when the pressure is off or on, or how soon it will be coming on. Water closets are often not able to be flushed till about 11 a.m. In fact we have a constant supply with all the inconvenience of an intermittent one.

INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Inspections	...	...	...	553
Orders Issued	...	...	...	9
Complied with	...	...	...	9

HOUSING.

The more we inspect the dwellings in some parts of the Borough, the more we must feel that something should be done, and the more we realise that we can do nothing. Those cases in which we have got Closing Orders are not closed, the tenants are still there, or having left have returned, because the Magistrates postpone the Ejectment Order, there being no other accommodation. The same with overcrowding ; if corrected in one room it appears in another.

The need for a type of house suitable for the working classes at a suitable rent is an urgent necessity. The shortage is excessive with the result that two and three families are compelled to inhabit single houses ; unsuitable for tenements or flats, and without decent conditions for moral purposes, besides being old, dilapidated and in a congested area. Take Silver Street ; here we have 130 persons in 17 houses with an average including living rooms of 1.40 per room. In the recent census of houses Saltash was one of the highest in density in the County being 1.30 families for dwelling.

This congestion is apparent only in the district of the Waterside, where the dwellings of the poorer classes are, and from the result of Court proceedings taken it is clearly seen how hampered is the Local Authority in the exercise of its duties by these conditions.

The Sanitary Inspector has got through a large amount of useful work during the year. All the lower town having been inspected house to house, when fifty houses were found deficient in flushing appliances, and corrected. Nine houses put into necessary repair, two reported for closing and one for demolition, apart from various smaller defects corrected but not recorded.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. THORNTON MEADOWS, D.S.O., M.D., M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

HOUSING

1923

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total.	2 (9 building)
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme.	2 nil

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for house defects under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	553
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 . . .	25
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	3

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	2
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A—Proceedings under section 26 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) by owners	4
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied:—	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners.	9
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C.—Proceeding under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

In conclusion, I should observe that the Health conditions of the Borough are very satisfactory, and there are no points needing discussion beyond those mentioned in my previous report.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. THORNTON MEADOWS, D.S.O., M.D., M.B., C.M., D.P.H.



